

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S! Please sign our Friendship Register with your name and address. A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. As you exit the narthex, the nursery is located down the hall on the right side. Restroom facilities are located on the left side. First Aid, Emergency Equipment and a wheelchair are located on the right by the stairwell. If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Men's Sunday school classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults. Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex. Ushers are also available to assist you.

Children's bags and activity sheets can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

GATHERING MUSIC

"How Much Is Your Love"

Imani Milele Choir

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

PRELUDE

"Holy Holy Holy"

Imani Milele Choir

(We Stand)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;

where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.


GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

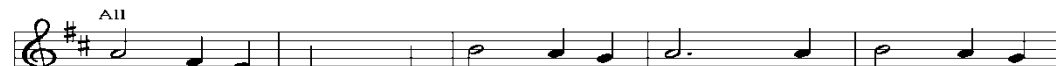
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

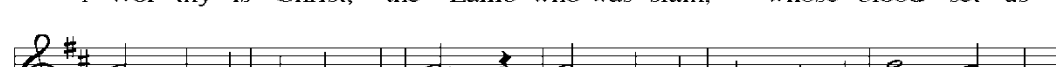


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

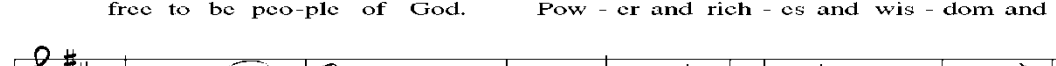
All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

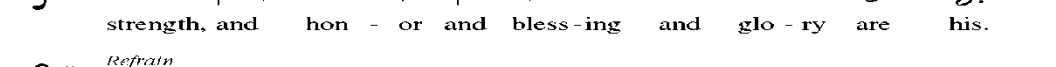


free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



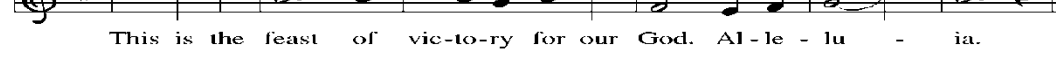
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

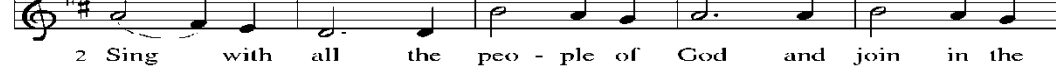


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

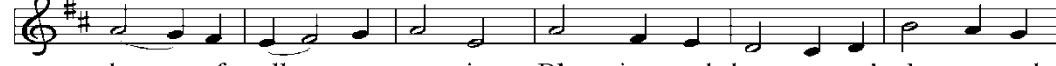


hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and




might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

(3)

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

Special Music

"Nyimusa"

Imani Milele Choir

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

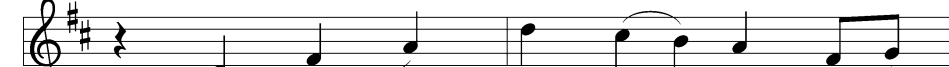
²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.


Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15



The righ-teous shall spread a-



broad like a ce-dar of Leb-a-non.

¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. R

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. R

(4)

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

(5)

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

SERMON

Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

(6)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

Anthem

"Psalm 23"

Imani Milele Choir

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

(We Stand)

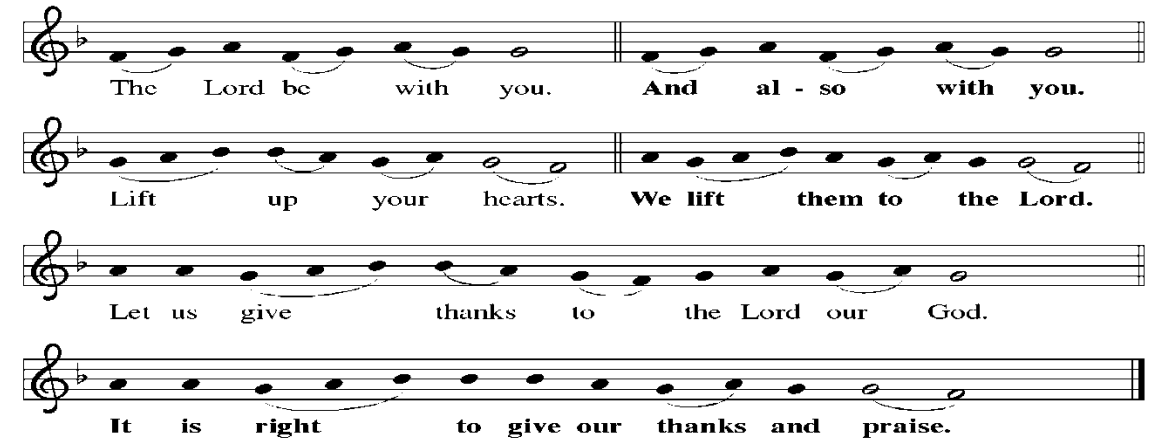
DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

(7)

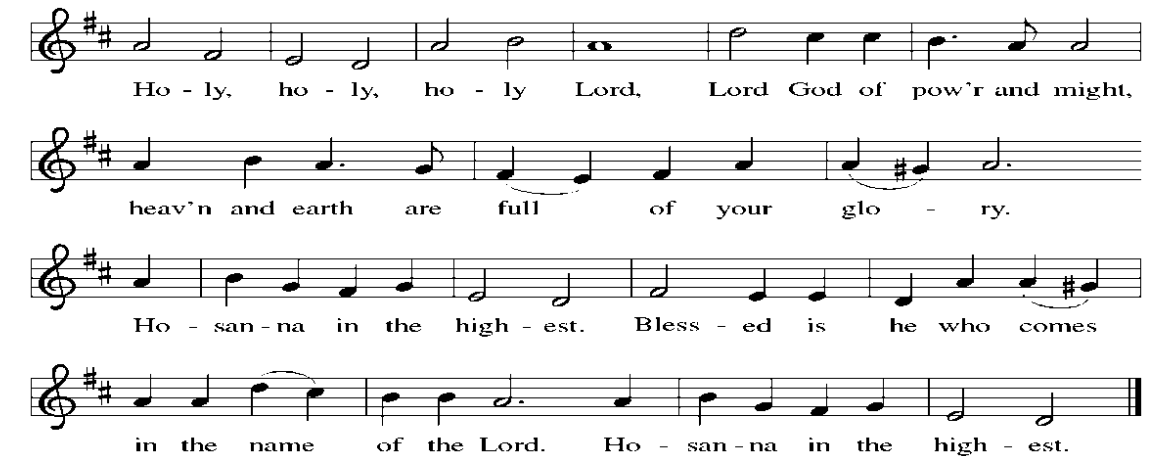
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

(8)

THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with and under each element alone.

Communion Music "Total praise" Imani Milele Choir

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the WOV (Blue) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" WOV 760

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope, and almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"We are marching in the light of God"

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching, oh)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching, oh)
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

Arr. Robert Farlee

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in In memory of Jeanette Taylor Rhoad by Benjie and Family.

SERVING TODAY: Council Person for June: Adam Tworzyanski

Ushers: (8:30) Odie Rawl, Vernon Hester, Bill Carroll, Ivan Black, Aaron Rawl, Pat Bowen, And Eric Wessinger;

(11:00) Ken Matthews, Alon Cox, Randy Huber, Rick Swaffield, and Roy Welch

Greeters: (8:30) Randal and Jeanette Ford; (11:00) Amy Shell

Readers: (8:30) Jane Kennedy; (11:00) Becky Robinson

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Abby Burnett [C] Alex Burnett

(11:00) [A] Madison Summerall [C] Caroline Westberry

Nursery: (8:30) Jewitte and Rod Dooley; (11:00) Dianne Taylor and Suzy Loney

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

The Church Staff Crisis Care Line: 808-6471 Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Mr. Matthew McCall, Organist
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

The Rev. Jason T. Antley
Mrs. Bailey Parker, Music Director
Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director
Miss Natalie Cook, Seminarian

**4th Sunday after
Pentecost**

June 17, 2018

Summer Sunday School Information:

**8:30 &
11:00AM**

Locations for Children’s Classes

Locations for Adult Classes

2’s – 5K – Room #103	Saints & Sinners with Pastor Jason – Chapel (Upstairs in Family Life Center)
1st – 6th Grade – Room # 206	Men’s Sunday School – Men’s Classroom (Downstairs)
7th – 12th Grade – Room #217	Agape Adult Class – Room #207